



Reading Comprehension Worksheet

Grade 10

Name: _____

Date: _____

Harbor at Low Tide

*The boats lean sideways on the cracking mud,
tired shoulders resting where the water fled.
Gulls stitch the gray sky with a restless thread,
and rope lines hang like unstrung violins.*

*I used to think low tide meant something lost—
the harbor's voice grown quiet, drained, undone.
But now I see the pilings, tall and sure,
holding their ground for water not yet come.*

*The fisherman does not curse the emptied shore.
He mends his nets and waits with weathered hands,
because he knows, as I am learning too,
that absence is not always the same as end.*

*The tide will turn. It always does, in time.
And what looks like a harbor's slow retreat
is only breath drawn inward, deep and still,
before the sea comes rushing back to meet
the boats, the ropes, the waiting, patient shore.*

Circle the Correct Answer

1. What is being described in the poem's opening lines?

- a) A storm approaching the harbor
- b) Boats resting in the mud during low tide
- c) A festival taking place on the shore

2. According to the poem, what did the speaker used to believe about low tide?

- a) That it meant something was lost or finished
- b) That it was the best time to fish
- c) That it never actually happened in this harbor

3. How does the fisherman respond to the low tide, according to the poem?

- a) He complains and leaves the shore
- b) He mends his nets and waits patiently
- c) He argues with other fishermen

4. What does the poem compare low tide to in its final stanza?

- a) A breath drawn inward before the sea returns
- b) A storm that will never end
- c) A ship sailing away forever

True or False

5. The poem describes the harbor during high tide. _____

6. The speaker's view of low tide changes over the course of the poem. _____

7. The poem suggests that the tide will never return. _____

Fill in the Blank

8. The rope lines are described as hanging like unstrung _____.

9. The poem states that "absence is not always the same as _____. "

Think and Explain

10. Identify one example of a simile or metaphor in the poem and explain what it suggests about the poem's meaning.

11. What is the central theme of this poem? Use at least one specific line from the poem to support your interpretation.
